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LIFE OF COMMISSARY JAMES ELAIR.
William and Mary College.

by

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A Dissertation Presented to the Board of University Studies
of The Johns Hopkins University for the Degree of Doctor
of Philosophy.

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Life.

Life of Rev. James Blair.

Chapter I.

Blair's Religious Work.

Of the early life of Dr. James Blair very little is known. He was born in Scotland in the year 1656. He possessed that characteristic, hardy Scotch nature and strength of moral character which gave him indomitable courage for carrying out the great tasks that awaited him beyond the ocean.

He was educated in Edinburgh and graduated at Edinburgh University, with the degree of Master of Arts in 1673. As a sphere in which to spend his life he chose preaching the Christian religion. He was beneficed in the Episcopal Church in Scotland. For several years he was rector of Cranston¹ parish in the diocese of Edinburgh. He served his church with such "diligence, care and gravity" that he won the admiration of the Reverend Joseph² Edinburgh, Bishop of the Edinburgh diocese. When he left Scotland the Rev. Joseph² Edinburgh gave him a recommendation of the highest order. Dr. Blair went to England in the latter part of the reign of Charles the Second. There he met Dr. Compton, the Bishop of London, and "the energy and zeal of Blair" soon attracted

¹. Perry's Historical Collection. - Virginia, page 247.
². " " " " " "

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the Bishop's attention.

The Bishop of London saw in Blair a power for good and spoke to him of the need of ministers in the American colonies and prevailed upon him to go to Virginia as a missionary. The religious condition of the colony, and especially the medium under which the clergy were, were not at all enticing to the better ministers of England. It was hard to get any

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of them to come here. Again the livings of the churches in Virginia were managed in such a precarious way that it was not certain that a minister could get a necessary support by his profession, if he should proclaim the Word of God with power and according to the rules of the established church. Anderson, the English Historian of the Colonial Church, in speaking of Blair says, "Nothing can be imagined more discouraging than the field of duty which there awaited him."

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Notwithstanding these hindrances, which we to-day are too apt to underestimate, Dr. Blair decided to come to Virginia and spend his life for its people's good.

In 1685 he sailed to Virginia. On reaching this fair climate he went to Henrico City, which both in importance and interest stood next to Jamestown. Excepting the efforts made at the Falls of the James river, at Nansemond and Hampton,

1. J. C. O. Anderson's History of the Colonial Church, Vol. II, p. 384

2. Perry's Historical Collection - Virginia, p. 335.

3. Anderson's History of the Colonial Church, Vol. II., p. 384.

Henrico was next to Jamestown the oldest settlement in Virginia, having been planted in 1611 by Sir Thomas Dale and Rev. William Whitaker. Dr. Blair on the year of his arrival was accepted as minister of Henrico parish and inducted into it. He preached there for nine years until he moved to Jamestown in 1694 in order to be nearer Middle Plantation, at which place he was establishing a college. He became minister of the Jamestown church in 1694 and remained pastor there for sixteen years. He became attached to the people there, and nothing but duty calling him elsewhere, caused him to leave. Some time in the early part of his ministry Dr. Blair was married. His wife was the daughter of Benjamin Harrison of "Wakefield", Surrey County.

In 1610 Rev. Solomon Whately, the rector of Bruton Church Williamsburg, having died, the vestrymen called a meeting for the purpose of employing a minister. After a brief consideration of a few prominent ministers, by the vestrymen, "by the Majority of Votes the Rev. James Blair was elected minister thereof." The church wardens informed Dr. Blair that he had

1. Perry's Historical Collection - Virginia, p.42.

2. Church Review, Vol.VIII., p.500, or the vestry book of Bruton church.

3. If the date is known, I have not been able to ascertain it.

4. Va. Magazine of History, Vol.IV., p.161.

5. Church Review, Vol.VIII., pp.591, 592.

been called to the Bruton church. I insert here a part of Dr. Blair's letter, addressed to the vestry of Bruton church, that it may briefly tell why he left Jamestown and also show how endeared the people had become to him during his pastorate there.

"December 4th, 1710."

"Gentlemen:

.....It is true I have so many obligations to ye Parish of James City, that nothing but the urgent Necessity of health after impaired by such long Winter Journeys, and a fear that as age and infirmities increase I shall not be able to attend that service (being at such a distance) so punctually as I have hitherto done ~~done~~, could induce me to entertain anything as of leaving them." Every preacher will¹ feelingly appreciate this bit of letter. What the mentioned service at Williamsburg was and how important it was will be discussed in the subsequent chapters.

It was the 10th of December, 1710 when Dr. Blair was called to the church at Williamsburg and he continued minister there as long as he lived. Williamsburg had been known in former years as Middle Plantation from the fact of its lying midway between James and York rivers. But in 1700, when Lieutenant-Governor Nicholson moved the seat of government from Jamestown to Williamsburg, the church at Williamsburg was called Bruton Church. 1. Church Review, Vol. 8, p. 606, on the vestry book of Bruton Church.

because of the damage to that town by fire and the unhealthi-
 ness of the place, to Middle Plantation, he planned ~~out~~ a
 large town and the new capital was named Williamsburg in honor
 of King William III.¹ By the time Dr. Blair became rector
 there in 1710 Williamsburg, with its beautiful location and
 broad and straight streets, and William and Mary College and
 the capitol, ^{was} the centre of attraction to all parts of
 Virginia. Many of its inhabitants were courtly and refined,
 and during college commencements and the sessions of the Bur-
 gesses, the place is said to have presented on a small scale
 the scene of a court in the mother country. At that time Dr.
 Blair was called to Bruton Church its parish was ten miles
 square and its members included the most distinguished men of
 the colony.² Bruton or Middle Plantation parish was three
 quarters of a century old at that time. It is mentioned in
 the acts of the "Grand Assembly" as far back as February 17,
 1644, but it was established several years before then, for
^{the}
 York Records mention it at an earlier time.³ It once con-
 sisted of two parishes, the Harrop and the Middle Plantation.
 In April, 1656, Harrop and Middle Plantation parishes were in-
 corporated into one, which was to be known as the parish of

1. Virginia State Papers, Vol.I, p.73

2. Perry's Historical Collection, - Virginia, p.299.

3. Hennings Statutes, Vol.I, p.317.

Middletown. Marston parish was joined to that of Middletown in 1674, and the united parishes took the name "Bruton

Parish." "Hence it derived the name Bruton is not known, but it is thought by John C. McCabe and Dr. Lyon G. Tyler to have been called Bruton in honor of Thomas Ludwell, or of Sir William Berkeley, the Governor, who were from Bruton, Somerset County, ~~in~~ England.

"When Dr. Blair took charge of the work at Bruton Church, he found its communicants, among whom was Governor Spotswood, making preparations for erecting a new building. He immediately entered heartily into the project, and presented to the vestrymen the Governor's plan, and encouraged the undertaking with means as well as with words. The new church building was to be seventy five feet long, twenty eight feet wide and to have two wings twenty two feet in width, and walls twenty three feet high constructed of brick. Governor Spotswood agreed to put up twenty two feet of its length at his own expense. The General Assembly contributed means for the two wings. By the end of 1715 the spacious building was practically finished. It was almost an even cross. The same church, ~~exceptin~~ some change in the size and interior adornments, still stands at old Williamsburg and its present rec-

tor is

In this sacred old church

1. Henning's Statutes, Vol.I., p.496.

2. York Records. William and Mary Col.Quat., Vol.III, p.170

"Knights of olden time, and stately dames have met and worshipped. At its altars statesmen and peers, and warriors have knelt;" and mouldering in its shadows,

"Hearts that once beat high for praise
 "Now feel that pulse no more."

Dr. Blair preached at his church every Sunday morning. On Sunday evenings lectures were given. Rev. Burn Jones, M.A., lectured there some years. Although Dr. Blair had three other important offices, ^{to fill} besides that of minister, ~~to fill which took much of his time,~~ yet he was never neglectful of his church. Whenever he took a trip to England, as he frequently did, he was particular to see that his church was supplied with preaching during his absence, and often refused salary that it might go toward supplying his pulpit. "He was much beloved and respected and especially in his own parish and among his nearest neighbors who knew him best," these are the words of five preachers who lived when Dr. Blair did and knew him. ¹ We can easily believe this, not only on account of his moral uprightness and intellectual ability, but also from the fact he was employed yearly by the Bruton church for thirty years.

Dr. Blair's preaching was plain, strong and especially practical for that time. His audiences were composed of the T. Perry's Historical Collection - Virginia, p 150.

élite of the colony, but he never swerved from preaching¹
forcibly against all manner of sin.

In his work as minister he wrote four volumes of sermons on "Our Savior's Divine Sermons on the Mount." There are one hundred and seventeen sermons in the volumes and each volume contains about five hundred pages. They were first published in England in 1722. A new edition was published in² 1740. They are interesting in that they are among the very first contributions to American religious literature. Four volumes are in the library of William and Mary College, to which they were presented in "1860 by Bishop Heade". Dr. Blair's purpose in writing these sermons was to arouse the people to "a more diligent consideration and practice of Christian Morals," and bring about a "Revival of the true Spirit of Christianity."³

many of which I have read

The character of the sermons¹ is well described in the words of Dr. Daniel Waterland, who wrote the preface of the new edition: "As to the Subject here made Choice of it is the highest and the noblest that could be, viz. our Lord's Divine Sermons on the Mount: And as it is here explained with good

1. Blair's Sermons.

2. Ibid.

3. Blair's Sermons, Vol. I., Preface, p. 22.

Judgment, so it appears likewise to be pressed with one
Force; in a clear and easy, but masculine Style, equally fitted to the Capacities of common Christians, and to the improved Understandings of the Knowing and Judicious." Of them¹
 Bishop Meade says, "As an accurate commentary on that most blessed portion of the Scripture, I should think it can never²
 have been surpassed."

It is now time to notice Dr. Blair as the Commissary of the Bishop of London. For many years previous to Blair's arrival in Virginia the clergy and others had complained of the need of a bishop in Virginia, who might discipline the ministers and raise the religious condition to a higher and more³
 respectable basis. They thought the sole remedy lay in the appointment of a bishop. It was hard to find a man equal to that office. But Dr. Blair, "by his regular Conversation, exemplary Conduct, and unwearied Labors in the Work of the Ministry" "did good Service to Religion, and gained to himself a good Report amongst all: So that.....Bishop Compton, being well apprized of his true and great Worth, made choice of him,⁴
 about the year 1689 as his Commissary for Virginia." He was

1. Blair's Sermons, Vol. I., preface, p. 7.

2. Meade's Old Churches and Families, Vol. I., p. 155.

3. Anderson's History of the Colonial Church, Vol. II., pp. 30, 358

4. Blair's Sermons, Vol. I., preface, p. 2.

the first Commissary of Virginia. Dr. Temple ~~had~~, previous to this time, ^{had} done the work of a commissary in some respects, but had never been appointed as such. The Commissaryship was "a very weighty and creditable post, the highest office in the Church" in Virginia.¹ The duty of the Commissary consisted in correcting the lives of the clergy, keeping them orderly and visiting the parishes.² Dr. Blair, as Commissary, called conventions of the preachers, presided at trials, and pronounced sentences when any one of the preachers was proved guilty of crime or misconduct. With respect to the clergy he exercised about all the functions of a bishop, excepting ordination and the probate of wills. No meeting of the clergy treating of ecclesiastical matters was to be held without the Commissary. He never attempted to set up a court for the laity. It must here be remarked that the Governor of Virginia was the King's ordinary by virtue of which office it was his duty to induct ministers into parishes when they should be presented by the vestrymen in the name of the parishoners.³ He had the power of both presentation and induction, if the vestrymen did not present a minister to him in the space of six months from the time the church became vacant. It was

1. Blair's Sermons, Vol. I., preface, p. 2.

2. Perry's Historical Collection - Virginia p. 250. Anderson's History of the Colonial Church, Vol. II. p. 363.

3. Perry's Historical Collection - Virginia p. 233, 241.

the duty of the Governor to suspend or silence any man
 he should find preaching without having been ordained by some
 bishop in England or if he should be leading a ^{scanda}lous
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 life.

Before we speak of the ways and means with which Dr. Blair
 labored to discipline the clergy, it will be necessary to
 state briefly the church government and condition of the
 clergy and also the hinderances to his truly "weighty" task,
 in order that we may understand what he had to do and how
 much he did.

Twelve men in each parish, known as vestrymen, were elect-
 ed by the parishoners at its beginning and any vacancies
 caused by death or otherwise were filled by the choice of the
 vestry. According to the law it was the duty of the vestry-
 men to proportion the levies and assessments for building and
 repairing the churches and chapels, provisions for the poor,
 maintenance of the minister, and such other necessary duties
 for the more orderly man^{ement of} ² ~~agement of~~ all parochial affairs". They
 employed the minister and according to the rules of the
 church should have presented him for induction, but, they rare-
 ly ~~ever~~ ^{and it} did this ~~which~~ was the cause of much disturbance.

1. Perry's Historical Collection- Virginia. Laws of Vir-
 ginia, p 3. Hening, Vol. I., p 242.
2. Hening's Statutes, Vol. III. p 44. Perry, p. 242.

Out of their number two church wardens were chosen yearly, whose duty may be summed up in a general way under three heads. First, the church wardens acted as censors for the church in reporting all swearing, sabbath-breaking, drunkenness and other "abominable sins", to the court held in December and April. Second, they kept the church building in repair and saw that the means for the sacrament were prepared. Third~~ly~~, they collected the minister's salary and presented¹ to the vestry an account of all the disbursements and receipts. The salary of a preacher, according to a law passed by the General Assembly of Virginia in 1696, was sixteen thousand pounds of tobacco. This was generally considered equal to one hundred pounds sterling in sweet scented tobacco and eighty in sorry grades, but as a matter of fact it ranged from one hundred and forty to one hundred and sixty pounds sterling, according to the grade of the tobacco. Five per cent. was deducted for the collection of the minister's salary.

At the time Dr. Blair was appointed Commissary the religious condition of the country was of an inferior order.² The

1. Henning's Statutes, Vol. II., pp. 51, 52.

2. Perry, 15, 16, 30. Hawk's Ecclesiastical History - Virginia, pp. 86, 87.

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clergy were a motley crowd. It will not do to make any sweeping statements, as some have, in regard to the clergy, for there were some sheep and some goats, with probably the former in the ascendancy. The preachers were sometimes unjustly treated. There is evidence that some of them were truly religious and devoted to their work. The precariousness by which the clergy held their livings beget in them a spirit

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of indifference to duty. The most common sin among them was drunkenness, and the things belonging thereto, such as profane language, quarreling and neglect of duty. It will be well to remember here that drunkenness is one of the very hardest vices to correct in a man, for it destroys his power of self-correction. This condition of the clergy is not to be looked at by itself, for they, to a great degree, were children of their age. The evil habit of drinking was common from Massachusetts to the utmost extent of the Southern colonies. The life of the people reacted upon the clergy as well as the life of the clergy upon the people. It is a fact, yet not altogether to any one's discredit, that new settlements composed largely of foreigners are more or less loose in morals, for they have no strong moral sentiment, opinion, formed and hardened by ages to guide the life of the people. Again

1. Perry, pp. 15, 30, 31, 252, 363. Hawks pp. 87 - 90.

2. Perry p. 15. Hawks Ecclesiastical History - Virginia pp. 89, 90.

the preachers for Virginia had to be obtained from England and it was difficult, for reasons that will be presently shown, to get men of great ability and character to come to the colony as missionaries. The best of them had good work and livings in England, so naturally the greater part of the preachers who came over were of an inferior order. ^{The} Demand in the colonies for ministers was great, and the leading bishops of England, although they had the religious welfare of Virginia at heart, made a mistake in thinking that men of ordinary ability would do for a new country; for whereas if able men are needed anywhere it is in fields where the paths have not been marked out, where a standard has not been set, where there are no customs of righteousness to support men, but where they must stand alone and create a standard by the sheer force of their own characters. Both this great demand, and the misunderstanding of the condition of the country, played their parts in contributing men for ministers whose characters were not above reproach and whose intellectual abilities were of a common order. The sinful and ugly conduct of a part of the clergy lowered the whole in the eyes of the people; so that the ministers, as a whole, did not possess the respect of the people as they should have, and hence were not able to do great good. This was the condition and

the class of preachers that the Commissary had to deal with.

In his efforts to better the clergy Dr. Blair labored under hindrances that deserve special mention. First, probably the greatest natural hinderance arose from the fact that he was a Scotchman. Many preachers had a prejudice against him on that ground alone.¹ It grates upon one's feelings as well as indicates the character of some of the clergy, to hear them speak of Blair as "one Scot hireling."² These ministers were not developed enough to know that a man's just right to an office does not at all depend upon whether he was born in Scotland or England or America or elsewhere, but that it depends solely upon the character of the man and his ability to fill it. Every page of contemporary history of the time shows there was no man in Virginia whose character and mental ability made him so capable of filling the office of Commissary as well as Blair. A second incidental obstacle was the enemies Dr. Blair had. He was a member of the Council, Judge of the high court and President of William and Mary College, as well as Commissary and preacher, and by his earnest activity in these offices in connection with all sorts of men some of them had become enemies to him. His troubles with the govern-

1. Perry, pp. 31, 37. College Papers.

2. Perry, p. 165.

ors caused many of the clergy to be opposed to him. While Dr. Blair, being human, made errors, yet had he been perfect he would have made enemies for he had to deal with officers and others who were acting from selfinterest and policy. A third inevitable hinderance was the lack of a sufficient number of preachers for the churches. There were not enough to supply the parishes, so there was no such thing as making choice; the unavoidable was to do the best with the number there was.

A few years after Dr. Blair was made Commissary there were fifty parishes in Virginia, and only twenty two preachers¹ all told.

We have now briefly stated the government of the church, the condition of the clergy at the time Dr. Blair became Commissary, 1689, and the hinderances under which he had to labor. His endeavors to better the clergy and the religious condition of Virginia, in general, may be spoken of under four heads.

1. By admonition and instruction to the ministers, for which purpose he usually called a convention of them.
2. By efforts to get more preachers from England.
3. By educating men in Virginia for the ministry. This will be spoken of in the following chapter and must be remembered when estimating the good Blair did for the clergy and religious condition of the

T. Perry, p.11.

colony. 4. By his own example.

That he might get all the preachers together for encouragement and admonition, the Commissary called general conventions. At first these conventions of the clergy were held yearly. But when political factions arose among the clergy in regard to the governors, it became difficult to get them together, so the conventions were held only on certain occasions, as at the accession of a king or of a Bishop of London or the appointing of a governor. The Commissary presided over the convention. One of the preachers was chosen as clerk of the meeting. On convening the Commissary preached a sermon, then delivered any special charge to the ministers he wished and read such letters as he might have from the Bishop of London or from the governor addressed to the clergy, and then the convention was resolved into a free conference, so that any minister might propose anything he wished for the good of the Church.

In these assemblies the lives of the clergy were inquired into and efforts were made to correct any evils existing in them. The whole religious situation was often discussed and with interest. Occasionally differences of opinion rose into a storm of discussion, pierced through and through with sarcastic lightning. Many papers presented in I. Perry , pp. 144 - 179, 199 - 217.

these conventions, and flashes of satire and sarcasm show that Virginia had some ministers of no mean intellectual ability. And it appears that the American spirit of religious freedom sometimes brooded over these clerical assemblies long before the days of Thomas Jefferson. The conventions often lasted two days, holding sessions morning, afternoon and night. The proceedings of some of these meetings are intensely interesting, and if the scope of this work allowed it, might be entered here with both interest and profit. In the conventions called from time to time Dr. Blair preached many able sermons to the clergy and gave them much fatherly and Christian advice backed by a similar life. But his preaching and admonition did not always do as much good as they should have done, because of the prejudice of some of the clergy and the hardened corrupt character of others. Their preconceived notions prevented them from catching the spirit of what was said. In reading over the papers and proceedings of these clerical conventions, the calmness of mind that Blair maintained amid hot debates and, sometimes, shameful and undeserved sarcasm hurled at him, especially impress the reader. I especially remember the accounts of the convention in 1705 when one of the ministers made a number of bitter remarks to the Commissary, but Dr. Blair answered them in a quiet and

masterly way. The calmness and earnestness of the man amid angry and oftentimes thoughtless men who were hurling untrue taunts at him, win our admiration for him and justly, for he who under such circumstances can manifest a calm and Christian spirit deserves admiration. Dr. Blair possessed that rare power - selfcontrol. But the meetings were not often stirred up in this way.

The Commissary not only used the mentioned assemblies to discipline the clergy, but as far as time permitted, visited the parishes and spoke to the preachers individually.

When any minister was reported for drunkenness or other misconduct, Dr. Blair said he found it hard to get witnesses to prove such, for while people would report such things in a general way, no one would come into his presence and testify to them. This kept him from getting at the truth and hence from dealing properly with immoral ministers. Perhaps, that which hindered, more than all other things, the Commissary in his visiting was the opposition and general aversion of the people to anything like a "spiritual court". The very air of Virginia seemed to breathe a spirit for freedom into every one who placed a foot upon her soil. Although Blair had a spirit of righteous indignation, he dealt gently with the clergy, on the whole. He said unless they were "notoriously

1. Perry, p.130

2. Ibid, p.214

scandalous" he found it necessary to content himself with admissions, for if he suspended any one, he had no one to put¹ in his place. During the first thirty five years of his Commissaryship he only suspended two ministers. June 20, 1723 he wrote to Mr. Forbes: "Because of the want of clergymen to fill vacancies, I choose rather to lean to the gentle than² the severe side." The Commissary earnestly endeavored by instruction, by encouragement and by rebuke, when necessary, to correct and purify the clergy. Every speech and letter of his to the clergy unmistakably breathed a deep and earnest spirit for the betterment of the religious condition of the colony, and especially for raising the ministers above reproach.

Dr. Blair could never rest easy as long as there was a parish without a preacher. It is said that Cato, whatever his theme might be, always ended his speech with delenda est Carthago - Carthage must be destroyed.- It is certain that Dr. Blair, whenever writing to the Bishop of London concerning the Church, nearly always expressed a desire for the Bishop to send more preachers to Virginia.³ The intensity of his spirit in pleading for more ministers when materially they were to benefit him in no whatever, fastens one's attention upon it. The explanation of all this is short - it is

1. Perry, p.250.

2. Ibid. p.251.

3. Ibid. pp. 250, 318, 334, - 344, 357, 362.

simply that Blair was a man of God and had the good of his people at heart. The Bishops of London, though they had ~~not~~ ^{much} at home to occupy their time, were always thoughtful of

the religious welfare of Virginia and ready to aid in any way. The thoughtfulness and the spirit of their letters to the Commissary are beautiful. They sent over ministers when they could. But owing to the fact that in the colony the preachers were employed by the year, instead of being inducted into their parishes or livings as in England, made it very

difficult to get ministers to leave home and a place of certainty for a foreign land and a precarious living. Ministers, to-day, accustomed to being employed by the year hardly know what a hinderance this was in keeping preachers from Virginia.

As already mentioned, it was the duty of the Governor to in-

duct ministers into the churches, but the vestrymen of each parish practically ruled all church affairs - employed and turned off their preachers according to their own desires and the Governor dared not oppose them. A preacher was rarely
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presented to the Governor for induction. The Commissary

wished the Governor to induct the clergymen in order that more and better ones might come from England. He said ministers living in precarious circumstances as they had to when not

~~L. de Blair to the Bishop of London, 1710~~ ^{Letter to the Bishop of London}
of the American Colonial Church pp. 45, 250.

inducted into their livings could not "match so much to their advantage as if they were settled by induction." ¹ He wished them to marry in the best families for two reasons, that they might have helpful wives and raise themselves in the estimation of the people, and thus be able to do more good. The Commissary did what he could to keep the globes in good condition and to raise the salary of ministers, that he might better their lot. Again, the odium under which the ministry was in the colony made it hard to persuade good men to come over, and it seems that the standing of the clergy was ² reported in England worse than it was. These obstacles did not abate, in the least, the Commissary's efforts to obtain more preachers. He kept writing to the bishops to send more ministers, and whenever he made a trip to England he urged them personally. His efforts were not in vain. In 1696 there were at least fifty parishes in Virginia and only twenty two ² preachers. In 1707 there were nearly forty ministers. In ² 17~~13~~³ Dr. Blair wrote the Bishop of London that ³ here were "about ten vacancies and no ministers to supply them." And in 1733 there were only two vacancies, save some unfinished parishes. Two years later there were more vacancies owing to the death of four of the clergy and the completion of new

1. Dr. Blair to the Bishop of London.

2. Perry, p. 185.

3. Ibid. p. 250.

parishes. But in 1740 there were only four or five churches¹ without preachers. And in 1742, one year before Blair's death, notwithstanding many preachers had been lost by death and several new parishes formed during his Commissaryship, there were only "two" "vacant churches", so he wrote to the Bishop of London.² Thus we see one desire of his life accomplished.

Not the least of Blair's means of raising the clergy to higher life, was his own upright life. His precepts to the clergy were good and his life was consistent with them. Amid all his trials, and though his enemies would have been glad to find something to injure him, there is not a single immoral blemish recorded upon his character. His life stood out before the clergy as both an example to them and as an endorser of what he had said.

Possessed as was Blair with pure piety, power of insight and untiring energy, his labors were of great value to the church in Virginia. By reading Hartwell, Blair and Chilton's "Present State of Virginia",³ written in 1695, and reading Hugh Jones' "Present State of Virginia", written in

1724, and other literature of a later date, one can readily
1. Perry, pp. 362, 363.

2. Ibid. p. 364.

3. Dr. Blair was one of the authors of this little history which is the best account we have of Virginia and her government in the last part of the seventeenth century.

see there had been an improvement in the clergy. ¹ Hugh Jones, though no friend to Blair, said in 174²~~8~~ the bulk of the clergy "had a mind to do their duty and live happily." ² Dr. Blair never ceased to strive for the welfare of his people until his life ceased. The old man, when about ⁷⁶~~84~~ eighty five years of age, although he had struggled with the difficult affairs of a colony in a foreign land for more than half a century, still preached "every Sunday", and as far as his physical condition allowed, was active in fulfilling the three other offices he held. His constant and earnest activity while young for the religious welfare of Virginia, and the tenacity with which he still clung to his first love when many years above three score and ten, plainly show Dr. James Blair to have been a man who sought not his own ease, but the good of his people and the glorification of the One who stood by him in all of his tasks. One can not well calculate influence. It is like leaven. The religious good that the fifty eight years of faithful preaching, the fifty four years of able Commissaryship, and the upright life of Dr. Blair did for Virginia in her formative ⁷²~~on~~ period will not be known in full until the sea shall give up its dead.

¹ Perry, p. 213.

² Jones' Present State of Virginia., p 73.

CHAPTER II.

Dr. Blair as the Founder of William and Mary College.

Dr. Blair not only had the religious but ^{also} the educational good of his country at heart. In fact, he saw that religion and education go hand in hand. In his earnest efforts to promote the religious condition of Virginia he saw most clearly and felt most keenly the need of educated preachers. Dr. Blair was a man who always grasped the situation readily and prepared thoroughly for a work. He knew that without some place of learning at home at which to educate the ministers no great religious work could be done. Accordingly he turned himself to the task of founding a college in Virginia where men might be educated for the ministry. He wished to found a college not only to educate preachers but also the youth of the country.

Long before Blair's time efforts had been made to establish a college in Virginia. In 1619 George Thorpe and George Landys planned for a university in Virginia. Sir Edwin Landys moved that ten thousand acres of land be granted for a university at Henrico. The grant was made. George Thorpe was chosen manager of the lands. Contracts were made with "brick makers". The bishop in England raised the sum of fifteen hundred pounds to go toward a university. "Any of

the colonists were interested in the educational project and made donations to it. ¹ It seemed that Virginia was soon to have the first college in America. But in the spring of 1622 the awful uprising of the Indians, in which Mr. Thorpe and three hundred and forty settlers including those on the university grounds, were massacred, put a sad and sudden stop to this noble movement in behalf of education. For the next seventy years little except some legislating was done toward founding a college in Virginia.

Two years after the Indian Massacre the idea of a college for Virginia was revived. It was suggested that the buildings be located on an island in the Susquehanna river, that they might be protected from the Indians. In 1624 the island was granted for the "foundinge and maintenance of a university and such schools in Virginia as shall there be erected, and shall be called Academia Virginiensis et Oxoniensis." ² But the Academia Virginiensis et Oxoniensis never became a reality. The death of Mr. Edward Palmer, its principal advocate brought the plan to an end.

In 1660 the Assembly of Virginia passed resolutions for the founding of a college and free school "for the advance

1.Neill's Virginia Company London, pp.137,138,146 - 149, 329,330.

Neill's Earliest efforts to promote Education in English North America.

2. Neill's Virginia Vestusta, p.183.

of learning, education of youth, supply of the ministry, and
 promotion of piety".¹ It was also voted that commissioners
 of the county courts take subscriptions for erecting a college
 and that the commissioners send orders to the vestrymen of
 the parishes to raise money for the same purpose.* "Consid-
 erable sumes of money and quantityes of tobacco"² were sub-
 scribed but nothing material was accomplished.

It is not strange that these several attempts failed, for
 while many colonists were in earnest about education, the ma-
 jority of them had their hearts turned toward pleasure and
 an easy life or ^{well} set on making money. Some among the high-
 est classes were not much in favor of education. We hear
 Sr William Berkeley, Governor of Virginia, saying, "I thank
 God there are no free schools or printing, and I hope we shall
 not have these hundred years."³ It is just to say that ten
 years before making this statement Berkeley had subscribed to
 the cause of ^{classical} ~~classical~~ education. Then, means for establishing
 a college were extremely scarce in those early days of the
 colony. Another hinderance is found in that the people of
 Virginia were scattered over the country and so it was more
 difficult to get them interested in establishing colleges
 than it would have been, had they been settled in towns.

1. Henning II., 25

2. " " 37.

3. " " pp 511, 517.

4. Adam's College of William and Mary, p 14.

Again, there were always disputes as to where a college
¹
 should be located. But perhaps that which was lacking, more
 than anything else, was a man to stand by and push through
 an educational project in those trying days of beginnings.
 The man to fill the place was found in the person of Dr. James
 Blair, the able and persevering Scotceman.

Commissary Blair in 1690 set himself to the work of
 founding a college in Virginia, there being at that time only
 "one privately endowed school and a few old field schools" in
²
 the colony. He talked education in such a manner as to "in-
 fuse fire into the cold hearts" of the people and especially
 into the burgesses. In 1690 Dr. Blair, together with some of
 the clergy, got up "Several Propositions to be humbly pre-
 sented to the Consideration of ye next General Assembly, for
 ye better encouragement of learning, by the founding a col-
 lege in this country to consist of three schools viz, Grammar,
³
 Philosophy, and Divinity." This petition asked the Gener-
 al Assembly to petition the king and queen for a charter for
 a college, a grant of land, a part of the quit-rents of Vir-
 ginia and other small revenues to go toward establishing a
 college. The proposition also contained a general plan for
 founding and governing a college. The council of state

1. See page 37

2. Cook's History of Virginia, p.305.

3. College Papers, bundle 636.

approved this plan as an "excellent design" and empowered and authorized Dr. Blair and several other prominent men to solicit subscriptions and gifts to defray the charges of a college building.¹ The subscription papers show that the motive for founding a college was three fold - "The Education of our Youth, a constant supply of our Ministry and ~~Shape~~^{Shape} a foundation for the Conversion of our neighboring Heathen (Indians) to the Christian Faith." Some money was subscribed for the benefit of a college.² In May 1691 the General Assembly appointed Dr. Blair, and gave him instructions to go to England and solicit a charter and funds for a college in Virginia.³ He was instructed to seek the assistance of the Bishop of London in obtaining a charter from the Crown. His instructions were quite full, but so great was the Assembly's confidence in his character and ability, he was told to do as he should "think necessary" in presenting the supplications to their Majesties.

Now we have the College at the point reached by all the former ones, namely planned and legislated about, and it is just begun, merely begun. The crossing of the ocean to obtain a charter, dealing with indifferent officials, raising

1. College papers, bundle 636, p.5.

2. Hartwell, Blair and Chilton's Present State of Virginia p.70.

3. America and West Indies papers, bundle 637, p 10

means with which to build and run the College and wrestling with strenuous financial difficulties are to follow. But these affairs are entrusted to one who never knew what it was to give up any undertaking.

In June 1691 Dr. Blair sailed for England to solicit a charter for the proposed college. On arriving in London in September the difficulties which confronted him were discour-
 1
 aging. King William was in Flanders seeing to the affairs of the war in which England was involved; the Bishop of London from whom Blair was to seek advice was sick; the Archbishop of Canterbury, to whom the king trusted wholly in ecclesiastical matters, was at Lambeth, and as the winter came on he was frozen up there for five weeks before he could get to London and Parliament and Council were completely absorbed in the business of the war. Though the situation was most discouraging, Dr. Blair made the very best of it. He idled no time away, but spent his spare ~~weeks~~ ^{months} in trying to raise money for the college, and these efforts resulted a few years later in a donation, known as the Boyle fund and other gifts, in all several hundred pounds sterling. In obtaining the charter Dr. Blair showed excellent judgement. Late in the fall when the Bishop of London recovered Blair went to him and the Bishop

1. Historical Collections - Virginia - W.S. Perry, pp 3-8 of Blair's Letters.

received him very cordially and promised his support. He advised Dr. Blair to take the college business before the council and committed on plantations. Dr. Blair did not wish to do this, ^{but} desired to present it through the Bishop directly to the king and queen. For, he said, he wished not only to obtain ^a charter but also as much funds as possible for a college. He explained that the church party was in the minority in the council and that, while the council might grant a charter, it would not be inclined to make any gift of money. Dr. Stillingfleet, Bishop of Worcester, favored Blair in his plan and told him that he had the right idea about accomplishing his mission, and to this the Bishop of London then agreed. ¹

While waiting for the king to return to London, and for him to attend to urgent war matters, Dr. Blair used his time in explaining to the bishop and queen his mission, winning their favor, and in preparing all things as far as possible before the petition for a charter should be presented to the king and council. ²

When the Archbishop of Canterbury came to London he aided Dr. Blair. In company with the Arch-bishop Dr. Blair went to Queen Mary and made known his mission. The queen welcomed the Commissary and "graciously approved" the founding of a college in Virginia. Later, when the college pro-

1. Perry, p 5.

2. College papers - Blair's letters.

posals was mentioned to the king he was much pleased with it and frankly promised to give something toward it, if he could find any revenues in Virginia fit to give. When the time arrived to present the petition formally to the council Dr. Blair having been introduced by the Archbishop of Canterbury and Lord Effingham, presented it in an appropriate manner and when he closed his remarks his Majesty said "Sir, I am glad that colony is upon so good a design and I will promote it to the best of my power." ¹ Dr. Blair was asked to give to the Bishop of London a scheme for the College and an account of what was expected for it, that it might be brought before the committee on plantations. All necessary steps in regard to the matter having been taken, the charter was granted February the nineteenth, 1693, for a college to be known by the name of "The College of William and Mary" in honor of the king and queen. With the charter the king ¹ gave toward the College nineteen hundred and eighty five pounds, fourteen shillings and ten pence out of the quit-rents of Virginia. ² They also granted for the same purpose a tax of one penny on every pound of tobacco exported from Virginia and Maryland; the fees and profits arising from the office of Surveyor-General, which was put under the control of the College;

I. Perry's Historical Collection - Virginia ,p6 (Blair's letters)
 2. College papers.

and twenty thousand acres of land, ten thousand of which lay south of the Blackwater and the other ten in the Pamunky Neck.¹ Dr. Blair was sent with a royal order to Seymour, the Attorney-General, to issue a charter. Seymour hesitated. He argued that England was engaged in an expensive war and could not afford means to erect a college in Virginia. Dr. Blair explained that the institution was to educate young men to preach the Gospel. He said the Virginians had souls to be saved as well as their English countrymen. To which Seymour replied, "Souls, damn your souls! Make tobacco!" I quote this saying, not for itself, for it is not one to be praised, but because it throws a great ray of light upon the obstacles that confronted Blair in obtaining a charter and funds for a college to be established in Virginia. "While it ^{is} true that those grand old bishops and others encouraged and supported the educational ambition of the American Colony, yet many Englishmen, business men and men of office, cared nothing for the educational welfare of Virginia. By them "all possible objections were made to the project, as a design that would take our planters off from their mechanical employments and make them grow too knowing to be obedient and submissive."² Their ideas were to use the inhabitants

1. Charter (attached to William and Mary Catalogues - Richmond 1870)

2. Bishop Burnet's History of his own Time, p 597.

of the colony as instruments out of which to make all the money they could. But it was to no purpose that the Attorney-General swore about the charter. Blair was not a man that could be baffled. He went after the charter and he would have it. Having accomplished his work well in obtaining a charter, and funds for the college, Blair sailed back to Virginia in the spring of 1693. By the charter he was "created and established first president during his natural life."

The General Assembly of Virginia also elected him president of the College. 2. The charter provided the organization of the institution. It said the faculty of the College should consist of a president and six professors or masters, and that the College should be a place of universal study of "Divinity, Philosophy, Languages and other good arts and Sciences". It provided a board of trustees, sometimes called visitors and governors, that should not exceed twenty in number. In the charter the first trustees of the College are mentioned - "Francis Nicholson, our Lieutenant Governor in Colonies of Virginia and Maryland; Wm. Cole, Ralph Wormly, William Byrd and John Lear, Esquires; James Blair, John Farnifold, Stephen Foxe and Samuel Gray, clerks; Thomas Milner, Christopher Robinson, Charles Scarborough, John Smith, Tenje-

1. Charter.
2. Blair was allowed 250 pounds for his trouble in getting the charter.

min Harrison, Miles Cary, Henry Hartwell, William Randolph and Matthew Pace." These chose the president, professors, rector, and chancellor. The rector of the College was appointed yearly. Dr. Blair was the first one. The chancellor was appointed every seventh year. Dr. Henry Compton, Bishop of London, was the first chancellor of the College. The board of trustees or visitors had general control of the College. But the charter provided that after the College should be founded and erected the trustees should grant and transfer to the president and professors the "Lands, Manors, Tenements, Rents, Services, Rectories, Portions, Annuities, Pensions and Advowsons of the churches, with all other inheritances, franchises possessions, goods, chattels and Personal estate". This was to be done in order that the president and professors might not be interfered with in any way! The charter further provided that the president and professors of the College should be a "body politic and incorporated in deed and name". This body had the "power to plead, and be impleaded, to sue, and be sued, to defend, and be defended, to answer, and be answered in all and every cause". The faculty had full and absolute power to nominate^{and elect} one of their number, or any able man they wished, to the House of Burgesses to represent the interest of the College. The salary of

the president was one hundred and fifty pounds a year and that of professors eighty pounds each, together¹ with twenty shillings entrance, and twenty shillings a year, for pupillage for each scholar.¹ Such, in brief, was the organization of the College.

As soon as Dr. Blair reached Virginia in 1693 he turned himself to the task of having the College building erected. The plan of the building was modeled by Sir Christopher Wren. The building was not completed before there was need of more money. The House of Burgesses strengthened the royal endowment by permanently levying an export duty, of an average of seven and one half per cent., on furs and skins for the support of the College.² Nicholson, then Governor of Maryland, entered heartily in the good work and gave one hundred and fifty pounds. A considerable sum of money, twenty five hundred pounds or more, had been subscribed by Virginians, but only a very small part of it could be collected.³ Dr. Blair in founding a college realized severely that which is true in most public undertakings - that it is much easier to get people to promise than to get them to do what they have promised-. First, they had subscribed⁴ some to oblige and carry

1. The Present State of Virginia - Hugh Jones, p. 27

2. Henning III., pp 123, 124.

3. Hartwell, Blair and Chilton's Present State of Virginia p. 70

))

favor with his excellency -the Governor who had issued a brief for subscriptions, - "others hoping and supposing it (the college project) would come to nothing, and others for the Commissary's sake, that they might not be thought singular and enemies to so good a worke, putt their hand to the briefe and could never be reconciled to the College" afterwards.¹ These not only would not pay but became "enemies to the College on the account of their subscriptions toward it".

Second, many of the subscribers were "angry" and would not pay because the College had been situated at Middle Plantation - later Williamsburg.² "Every one" wanted it "in his own county and neighborhood". In the above statement we see plainly how hard it was to get the early settlers in Virginia to work together in anything for the common good. In the third place, some subscribers raised the objection that the president was receiving his salary before the college building was actually finished and the school became a college and therefore they would not help.³ Manifestly, it was more work and worry to the president to raise the money, have the building erected and raise the standard of the school to

1. College papers.

2. Henning III. 122.

3. New York Archives, Vol III. Also College papers.

a college than to act president after the school should be well established. When Dr. Blair returned from England he offered to go to his parish in Henrico, where he was inducted into a living, and not to receive any salary until the building should be constructed, but the governors of the College would not listen to any such thing. They said that Blair had been the manager of the whole business and they were afraid that it would still come to nothing¹, if he were not at the head of it. So they voted for him to leave his parish at Henrico and come and carry on the college work with "all diligence". Blair was not only the originator of the College but its very life. Lastly, the collectors of the penny a pound on tobacco were prejudiced against the College and "began personally to entertain odium against it" because "that money was directed from their coffers into another channel by being given to the College."² But the collectors cheated the College out of a great deal of the revenue. Besides the lack of money Dr. Blair had enemies who opposed him. It was impossible that an active, earnest man working with men, who often acted merely for gain and from other superficial motives should not have some enemies. But he never thought of

¹ Perry, pp. 41, 42.

² College papers.

giving up the work because of opposition and the lack of money. He gave a part of his salary. Some friends advanced money to the College. So the work went on. The office of surveyor-general began to bring in money about Christmas 1696 or 1697.

1
It yielded annually about fifty pounds. About 1697 the ten thousand acres of land south of the Blackwater Swamp were leased. There was a dispute about the ten thousand acres in the Pamunky Neck and it was some time before it yielded a
2
revenue to the College. It appears from the accounts, ^{that} ~~that~~ are before me, that the college building cost three thousand
3
and eighty nine pounds. This amount includes some small amounts paid to the teachers. We have a good description of the appearance of the College in Prof. Hugh Jones' "Present State of Virginia". "The front which looks due east is double, and is 136 feet long. It is a lofty pile of brick building, adorned with a cupola. At the north end runs back a large wing, which is a handsome hall, answerable to which the chapel is to be built; and there is a spacious piazza on the west side, from one wing to the other. It is approached by a good walk, and a ground entrance by steps, with good courts and gardens about it.....and a large pasture enclosed like

1. Hartwell, Blair and Chilton's Present State of Virginia, p

2. "Board of Trade" - Virginia, Vol. 4.

3. College papers.

a park with about 150 acres of land adjoining for occasional
¹uses." This description was given of the second building,
 but the model was the same as the first and tradition says
 the general appearance was.

Teaching was begun before the building was completed.
²The grammar school was started in 1693, the same year that
 Blair returned from England. Thus we see that in less than
 three years from the time Blair began to infuse fire into the
 burgesses about the College he had been to England, obtained
 the charter, returned and put the College in operation. The
 grammar school was "well furnished with a good school master,
³usher and writing master." Mingo Inglis, M.A., a Scotchman
 of ability, was the first professor of the grammar school.
 This grammar school, which was for the "education of the youth
 of the Colony in the Latin and Greek tongues" was all that
 the College had for several years. It was the corner stone
 of the institution. "The College soon did good work, for in a
 report, made by ten of the most prominent men of the time,
 we read, "The scholars make great proficiency in their stu-
 dies to the general satisfaction of their parents and guar-
⁴dians." In May 1697 the House of Burgesses attended exer-

1. Present State of Virginia - Hugh Jones, p.26.

2. College papers.

3. Board of Trade, Virginia, Vol.6.

4. " " " " " "

exercises at the College and spoke with commendation of the
 studying the students were doing. That year the College had
 twenty nine students.¹ The first Commencement of the Col-
 lege was held in the closing year of the century. It was a
 grand occasion for the colony and attracted visitors from far
 beyond the bounds of Virginia. "There was a great concourse
 of people; several planters came thither in coaches and others
 in sloops from New York, Pennsylvania and Maryland, it being
 a new thing in that part of America to hear graduates perform
 their exercises. Indians had the curiosity, some of them, to
 visit Williamsburg upon that occasion; and the whole country
 rejoiced as if they had some relish of learning.² As men-
 tioned above, it was several years before the College became
 more than a grammar school. The growth of the institution
 was not as rapid as one might expect and this was greatly
 owing to the lack of funds. We might pass over this period
 of slow growth by merely saying there was a lack of money
 and it takes time for anything to grow. But this would not
 be doing justice to the real circumstances. There were two
 other things that hindered the growth of the College enough
 to demand mention here. First, Dr. Blair's troubles with

1. William and Mary College Quarterly, Vol. I., p136.

2. Campbell's History of Virginia, pp. 361, 362.

governors of Virginia, and second, the discord between the president and Professor Mongo Inglis, the leading master in the school. The trouble of Dr. Blair with the governors caused him to have to make two trips to England and these took much of his time and attention from the College when it needed him most. The contentions divided the people into factions and it was nothing but natural for the most of those who opposed the president to oppose the College, since he was the head of it. These disturbances were also the cause of a number of students being taken from the College. ¹ The discord between President Blair and Professor Inglis, which was very great and injurious to the College for a few years, is to be regretted for it arose largely from misunderstandings and the reports of talebearers. Professor Inglis, a man of considerable ability, but who would talk too much, became extremely angry with President Blair. He threatened to give up his professorship and let the College go to nothing, for he said, the whole reputation of the institution was derived from himself. He declared that the school would never amount to anything while Blair remained president, for, said he, the President used it only as a "tool" with which to enrich himself" and as a "stalking house" by which to carry on designs

1. College papers.

against governors and turn them out of office. Professor Inglis spoke as disrespectfully of Blair as he could. He even accused him of trying to break up the College. But, unfortunately for the Professor's charges, they contradict themselves. While on the one hand they say Blair gets his riches and all of his power from the College, on the other, they accuse him of trying to ruin the institution - that which ^{Blair} ~~he~~ knows to be the source of his income and power.

All ~~at~~ ^{this} dispute threw a damper over the whole school, partly unfitted Professor ^{Inglis} for his work and destroyed the harmony that should exist between the president and professor.

Dr. Blair seems not to have become angry with Mr. Inglis, but tried to reason the matter with him. No attempt will be made here to give a full account of the causes of Mr. Inglis' falling out with Dr. Blair, for that would be discussing them farther than their importance deserves. I only mention briefly a few of the causes as stated by Mr. Inglis himself, while irritated. "First," he said Dr. Blair ordered his brother's son, John Blair, to be taken from the College and that this was the cause of Dr. Blair's friends taking six more students from the school, which students were boarding with him (Inglis). Each student paid to Mr. Inglis twenty shillings entrance fee and the same sum for tutorage, and this together

with the money for board touched Mr. Inglis' pocket very sensibly. This, according to his own statements, was the chief reason of his hatred toward the President. But Dr. Blair said he did not order his nephew to leave the College and further more that he was away in England when the boy left and knew nothing of it at the time. "Second", Mr. Inglis said the President was using the College as a "stalking horse" to serve him in turning out governors. "Third", because of Dr. Blair's ingratitude to Governor Nicholson "the great patron of the College". "Fourth", because Dr. Blair had "injured and disgraced" his (Inglis) scholars and himself by statements he had made in an affidavit against the governor. The gist and truth of the whole matter is this: Mr. Inglis thought Dr. Blair had been the cause of the seven students being removed from college and these removals, according to the Professor's own words, touched his pocket considerably, as well as his reputation as a professor. And further more, he was a friend to Nicholson, Blair's enemy, hence from both his feeling and the custom of the time, it was natural for him to be an enemy of Dr. Blair. The President managed this trouble between himself and the professor ably, as he did all other

difficulties that arose. Together with these drawbacks to the College followed another of a different kind. As already intimated, the college building had been erected only about ten years when it burned down. This took place in 1705. "Very little saved that was in it", says Beverly, "the fire breaking out about ten o'clock at night, in a public time. The Governor and all the gentlemen came up to the lamentable spectacle." "But the fire had got such a power.....there were no hopes of putting it out." This, indeed, seemed discouraging since there were no funds on hand with which to rebuild. But it is said that Dr. Blair was not discouraged. Not for a moment did the President and the best friends of the College think of giving it up. Many of the Virginians wanted a college before they had any and now they had got a relish of learning and seen how much the college was calculated to help the country, they were not at all disposed to do without one. The President and other trustees put themselves to the task of rebuilding. The second building did not go up nearly so fast as the first. When Alexander Spotswood was appointed governor in 1710 he encouraged the President and helped toward the building. Finally the edifice was restored. The second building, while like the first in general appearance, was more beautiful. It was not "altogether unlike

1

Chelsea Hospital."

Besides the main edifice there was also one for the education of Indians. Few people of to-day know how much interested the early settlers of Virginia were in educating and Christianizing the Indians. They were in earnest about the matter. In connection with the early movements for colleges there was always something said about educating the Indians. There is scarcely a petition that states the purpose of founding William and Mary College but that expresses the intention of educating the natives of America.

The promoters of the educational project carried this intention into effect. Hon. Robert Boyle, who died in England in 1691, ordered his executors "to apply his personal estate to such charitable and pious uses as they, in their discretion, should think fit." ² The Boyle bequest, £5,400, was invested in a landed estate called the Brafferton. While in England in 1692 Dr. Blair had partly secured this bequest. In 1697 he went back to England, and aided by the Archbishop of Canterbury, obtained the most of this bequest for the College of William and Mary. ³ A part of this legacy went to Harvard College. By means of the Boyle endowment the College of

1. Present State of Virginia - Hugh Jones, p.26.

2. Prof. H. E. Adams' William and Mary College, p. 16.
Perry p. 8.

3. Duychinek's Cyclopaedia of American Literature, Vol. I

William and Mary erected a building, called the "Bafferton", solely for Indian education, which purpose it long served. It was a "handsome house" and had twelve rooms.¹ This building is still standing and is used as a dormitory for students. The Indian school had a master or professor.² Governor Spotswood, during his administration, abolished the petty tribute formerly exacted from certain Indian tribes, on condition that the "chief men" should send their children to the college to be educated. From hostile tribes young Indians were taken as hostages, to be educated, who served to maintain the public safety. The queen of the Pamunky² sent her son to the College. Many of the Indians who came to the school took much interest in the studies. During Spotswood's régime there were nearly twenty Indians at the College at one time. It seems that this Indian department did well for a time. Governor Spotswood in a communication to the Bishop of London, dated July 26, 1712, speaks of the success of the experiment, but of the insufficiency of the endowment. The Indians, he says, "are decently clothed^a and maintained, so that they seem very well pleased with the change of their condition as indeed their parents and others of their ~~affin~~ nations who come frequently to see them, express much satisfaction.

1. Dychinck's Cyclopaedia of American Literature, Vol I pp 87, 88
 2. Letters of Governor Spotswood, I., p 174

faction with the care that is taken of them, and frequently lament their own misfortune in not having like advantages in their youth; but as the revenue of the College settled by Mr. Boyle for that service is insufficient to support so great a charge, I hope your Lordship will use interest for obtaining some contributions from the Society for propagat-
 ing the Gospel to Promote so good a design." But this Indian department never did the good that its promoters had thought and hoped. The disposition of the roving Indians who had been hemmed in only by the gilded horizon and blue canopy of the heavens was not adapted to academic walls. Many became dissatisfied in school and pined away and died.

the guidance of

The College for the whites under its able and ~~conso-~~
~~crated~~ president, increased in size and usefulness. The board of visitors and governors met often to attend to the business of the College and look after gifts and endowments. The proceedings of these meetings were well kept. They contain not only such transactions as selecting professors and choosing visitors, but they have the minutest details of the College business. Notwithstanding that the governors of the College attended closely to their duties, the institution was cheated out of the revenue belonging to it. From

1. Letters of Gov. Spotswood, Vol. I., p. 174

2. Virginia Magazine of History, Vols. 3 and 4.

3. Henning Vol. IV. pp 429, 430 College papers.

time to time gifts of more or less importance were made to the College. In 1718 the General Assembly, acting on the advice of Governor Spotswood, gave one thousand pounds. In 1726 the House of Burgesses put a duty on liquors, which revenue was given to the College. Both the one thousand pounds and the income from liquors were used in establishing scholarships. Colonel Hill of Shively, and Robert Carter of Corotoman together gave two hundred pounds for the endowment of a scholarship. Mrs. Elizabeth Harrison of Surrey contributed three hundred pounds and Mrs. Thomas Bray, of New Kent, two hundred. The College had a library containing a considerable number of volumes considering how few books there were on this side of the Atlantic. From time to time books were donated to it from private libraries. When Alexander Spotswood died in 1740 he bequeathed his books, maps and mathematical instruments to the College.

Until 1711 the faculty of the College consisted of President Blair, a grammar professor, Mingo Inglis, an usher James Hodges, and a writing master. The building having been destroyed by fire in 1705, the money that would have employ-

ed professors had to go toward erecting the new building.

1. Henning, Vol. IV. p. 74.

2. " " " " 148, 432.

3. Virginia Magazine of History, Vol. 4, p. 161.

4. Winsor's Narrative and Critical History of America, Vol. V., p. 267.

In 1711 Mr. Lefevere was elected first Professor of Mathematics.¹ In 1717 Rev. Hugh Jones acted Professor of Mathematics. The exact time other professors were added to the faculty is not known, but by 1829 it contained the full number intended by the charter, six professors, graduates of Edinburgh,² Oxford and Cambridge.³ It was the first college in America to have a full faculty. Bartholomew Yates and Francis Fountain were the professors of Theology, William Dawson and Alexander Irwin, of Philosophy and Mathematics, Joshua Fry of the grammar school and Richard C\locke\ of the Indian school.⁴ The Classical languages, Oriental languages, Divinity, Mathematics and Philosophy were now taught. Thus we see that President Blair, against fire, personal opposition and scarcity of money, brought the College to its full size and to success. Truly, he was a man, who when he had once put his hands to the plow, never looked back. In 1729 the College, as the charter had provided, was transferred to the President and Professors.⁴ The College did not disappoint Dr. Blair in his expectation of good. It did much in raising the standard of the ministry and has played a great and important

1. Virginia Historical Collections, Vol. I., pp 103, 106, 108.

2. William and Mary Hist. Papers, Vol. II, p. 65.

3. Transfer of the College.

4. Transfer; attached to William and Mary Catalogues, Richmond, 1870.

part in educating statesmen. Concerning ministers Bishop Meade said, "It is positively affirmed by those most competent to speak that the best ministers were those educated at the College." We need make no comment on the statesmen who have studied in the halls of old William and Mary College, their names speak for themselves. Some of them are, Jefferson, Monroe and Tyler, United States Presidents; John Tyler, Governor of Virginia; Peyton Randolph, first president of the Continental Congress; Edmund Randolph, Attorney-General and Secretary of State; Beverly Randolph, Governor of Virginia; John Mercer, Governor of Maryland; James Innes, Attorney-General of Virginia; John Blair, Bushrod Washington and Philip Barlow, Judges of the Supreme Court of the United States; and the great Chief Justice John Marshall. Besides these the College has sent out fifteen senators, a greater number of representatives, fifteen governors, more than thirty judges, two commodores, nine members of the cabinet, and a number of other men of public trust and high position. In founding William and Mary College Dr. Blair put in motion a mighty power to shake the throne and set ^{the} American conscience free. It was during his two years study at William and Mary College that Jefferson was inspired with the thoughts that expanded his mind and gave him his idea of an educational

system. He says, "In the spring of 1760, went to William and Mary College, where I continued two years. It was my great good fortune, and what probably fixed the destinies of my life, that Dr. William Small of Scotland was then Professor of Mathematics, a man profound in most of the useful branches of science, with a happy talent of communicative, correct, and gentlemanly, manners and enlarged and liberal mind. He most happily for me, became soon attached to me, and made me his daily companion when not engaged in the school; and from his conversation ^{on} ~~on~~ I got my first views of the expansion of science, and of the system of things in which we are placed." ¹ Professor Herbert B. Adams, in a monograph on William and Mary College, says, "Virginia is called the mother of presidents, but the College of William and Mary, the alma mater of statesmen, is only another name for Virginia." It is proper to add here that, though William and Mary College has been partially destroyed by fire several times, and greatly injured by both the Revolutionary and Civil Wars, it is doing a good work at the present time under its able and energetic President, Dr. Lyon G. Tyler. It stands to-day as the first American College that received a charter, the first in the world planned by English colonists, and the first

¹ Dr. Foote's Sketches of Virginia, p. 155.

actually established in America with one exception, Harvard was the first. Dr. James Blair was the founder of successful educational enterprises in Virginia and all the South.

The people of the South, especially of Virginia, owe a greater debt of gratitude to ^{the man} ~~the Reverend~~ James Blair, for their education, than they are aware of. They are better and wiser by his having lived. One cannot well measure the extent of the influence of his educational work. Though his remains have been sleeping under the willows at old Jamestown for more than a century and a half, his educational influence rests not, and will not as long as the American nation lasts.

CHAPTER III.

Blair's Connection with the Governors of Virginia.

Besides being Commissary and President, Dr. Blair was a member of the Council of Virginia. He was appointed a member by the king in 1703.¹ This Council corresponded to the upper house in England and was an advisory board of the Governor.² The business of the Council was to advise and assist the Governor in all important matters of government which he might consult them about. The Council acted together with the House of Burgesses, forming what was called the General Assembly. As a member of the Council Blair was a judge of the highest court in the colony. He was president of the Council for many years. No man in the colony held as many important offices as Blair. He was always busy working for the welfare of the colony either as Commissary or preacher, or president of the College, or as a member of the Council in its different functions. Wherever Dr. Blair was he counted for something. He was no figurehead. When he believed any line of

action to be right he adhered strictly to it. As Dr. Blair was a member of the Governor's Council and Commissary, while the Governor was the ordinary of the king and the Bishop of

1. Hartwell, Blair and Chilton's Present State of Virginia, p.35. Campbell's Virginia, p.350. Some writers differ from the above date, but that is the date according to Blair's own statement. 2. Hartwell, Blair & Chilton's Pres.State of Va.

London, their relations and work were close and in some cases almost inseparable. As ordinary, it was the Governor's business to induct the ministers upon presentation of them by the vestrymen, and in case they did not present the ministers in six months, the Governor had the right to induct preachers¹ without presentation. There were often misunderstandings and dissatisfaction between the Commissary and Governor about induction and other church matters. Thus Blair's many sided work and the energy and earnestness with which he did it, frequently brought him in collision with prominent men of the colony. He was involved in difficulties with clergymen and governors during the greater part of the period of his Commissaryship and presidency of the College. Troubles arising from the Church, the Government and the College, caused controversies and opposition between Dr. Blair and three governors - Andros, Nicholson and Spotswood. There are hundreds of pages of manuscript and letters of the controversies between Blair and the governors. Some of the trials in Lambeth Palace are preserved in full and are extremely interesting.

I shall be as brief in my treatment of the troubles between the governors and Dr. Blair as I can to bring out the

1. Laws of Virginia, p. 3. Perry pp 243, 244.

leading facts. Sir Edmund Andros became Governor of Virginia in 1692, at the time the College was being founded. He came from New York bringing no good name. He opposed the founding of the College.¹ He spread among the voters the fear that taxes would be increased should the College be established. He never paid anything himself toward the College, and it is said his friends did not. He once promised brick to build the chapel and then withdrew his promise.² In trying to exert an influence against Dr. Blair, the Governor complained even because he was a Scotchman. Finding that all of his efforts amounted to nothing, he resorted to personal insult. Among the Governor's courtiers was a young Mr. Parke, a man of doubtful character and "ready at giving a challenge, especially before company, as the greatest Hector in town."³ That Parke might recommend himself to the favor of Andros he attempted to insult the leading friends of the College. He insulted and struck with a horse whip Francis Nicholson, who was a special friend of the College. Young Parke wished to do something to President Blair, whose gown protected him from challenges, so he resorted to a shameful act to insult the Doctor. Parke was a son-in-law to Colonel Ludwell, a

1. Perry's Historical Collections - Virginia, pp 16 - 29.

2. Perry, pp.54-57.

3. Perry, p 23.

warm friend of Dr. Blair. One Sunday when Mrs. Blair was sitting in the pew of Colonel Ludwell, young Parker rushed suddenly in the church, "seized Mrs. Blair by the wrist and with great fury and violence pulled her out of the pew in the presence of the minister and congregation." There is no evidence that Dr. Blair got offended with the Governor for all this. Governor Andros suspended Blair from the Council without having any trial or even informing him, because he had spoken off the Governor's obstructing the College. The king of England disapproved of the action and restored Blair to the Council. After the king restored him to office Andros had the audacity to declare that he was not eligible because he was born in Scotland. Dr. Blair went to England in 1697 to attend to getting the Doyle legacy for the College. At the same time complaints were made against the Governor and then Dr. Blair brought thirteen charges against Andros as an enemy to the Church, clergy and the College. There were no petty personal complaints in the charges brought by Blair; they all pertained to matters of importance to the colony. Five were in regard to the Church and clergy. The Governor never tried to fill the vacant parishes. He made no attempt to induct the

1. Perry, pp. 26, 27 William and Mary Historical Papers, Vol. I pp 64, 65.
2. Hartwell, Blair and Chilton's Present State of Virginia p36
3. Perry, pp. 10-29, 32-36. Fulham MSS. Nos. 594 and 1029.

ministers into their livings. He did not favor them in their salaries when he could have done so. When the clergy were shamefully treated and brought their complaints before the Governor he paid but little attention to them. Eight of the charges were concerning the College. In substance they were, that Governor Andros favored the enemies of the College; paid nothing himself and tried to influence others not to pay their subscriptions; put difficulties in the way of the College receiving its revenues, and hindered the meetings of the trustees or the governors of the College. The trial took place in Lambeth Palace December 27, 1697, and lasted two days.

Blair had strong foes to meet. The Governor had sent over his defenders, Colonel Byrd of Westover, Mr. Harrison of Surrey, a Mr. Marshall and a Mr. Povey to arraign Dr. Blair before the Archbishop of Canterbury and the Bishop of London. In the presence of the Bishops the four sent over by the Governor brought two accusations against Blair. He successfully refuted both of them. They were weak. One charge was that Dr. Blair had filled the parishes with Scotchmen against the people's desires. But being asked for names, they could not be produced. Dr. Blair's opponents had made a blunder. Some Englishmen had been taken for Scotchmen. The other charge was

1. Perry p 36. Meade's Old Churches and Families, Vol. I., p 158

Dr. Blair's taking his salary as president before the College was completed. Blair answered that though the General Assembly and the charter of the College had made him a right to the president's salary, yet he told the governors of the College, when he returned to Virginia in 1693, that if they thought "the business of the president unnecessary at present" he had a good living at Henrico and would go there and stay till he was needed. But after "free debate upon the subject" the trustees of the College agreed that as he had been¹ managing the business of the College both in Virginia and in England "they were afraid it would still come to nothing," if he was not at the head of it, therefore voted that he should leave his parish and remove "to the place where the College should be built, and carry it on with all diligence." Accordingly he moved.

On the other hand, Dr. Blair sustained his charges, ~~as on~~ ^{the} whole against the Governor, often making his opponents admit them.² The calmness, frankness and knowledge with which Blair spoke gave his words additional power. Bishop Meade has truly said "Never were four men more completely foiled by one."³ The trial or the examination resulted in the bishop sustaining Dr. Blair and Governor Andros, ~~being~~ recalled.

1. Perry, p 42. 2. Perry pp 36-6. Campbell's Virginia pp 350
3. Meade's Old Churches and Families, p 152. 357.

When Andros was removed in 1698; at the instance of Dr. Elair, Sir Francis Nicholson who had been Deputy Governor of Virginia in 1690 and 1691, was made Lieutenant Governor of Virginia. Oakney was the figurehead governor and staid in England. During Nicholson's first governorship he and Elair¹ were strong friends. Nicholson favored the college project and contributed liberally and Elair wrote him many letters expressing the greatest appreciation and gratitude. When Nicholson returned as Governor, while he and the Commissary got along agreeably for a while, yet from the very beginning he seemed to be a changed man. Many people of the time said he was changed. When Governor of Maryland he had disagreed² much with Commissary Bray. His friends in Virginia had learned that the objections to him in Maryland had arisen from his passion. On the day of the publication of the Governor's commission, Dr. Elair took it to him and in accordance with advice from Nicholson's friends and in the name of the Bishop of London, recommended, in the best of spirit, moderation in his administration. Nicholson "replied very hotly", "4-- I know better now to govern Virginia and Maryland than all the bishops in England, if I had not hampered them in Maryland and kept them under, I should never have been able to have governed them."³ Dr. Elair answered, "I do not pretend to

1. College papers and Elair's letters. 2. Mease p 158.

3. Perry, pp 76, 77.

understand Maryland but if I understand anything about Virginia they are a good natured tractable people as any is in the world and you may do what you will with them by the way of civility but you will never be able to manage them in that way you speak of, by harping and keeping them under." By nature Nicholson was self-willed, high-tempered and vain.

He always wished to have his way whether in affairs of politics, love, or what not. His tyrannical and passionate action turned many people against him. In a few years Dr. Blair and Governor Nicholson were at variance with each other.

Without doubt it was the tyranny, profanity, immorality, and ridiculous actions of Nicholson that caused Blair to oppose him as Governor. When the least ¹ mad, he collared and cursed Attorney-generals; assaulted ministers, took off their hats and called them villains, rogues, rascals and bastards; ² and swore at members of the Council and applied to them his usual list of opprobrious names, "rogue, rascal, cheat, dog, villain, and coward."³

The Governor's acts were offensive enough, but a love affair brought out his worse qualities and made him almost as a mad man. This affair had so much influence upon Nicholson

1. Perry, pp 101, 102.
 2. Ibid. " 90, 91.
 3. Ibid. " 98.

and increased the disagreement and animosity between him and Dr. Blair to such a degree it requires mention here. In fact many of the people of the time said it was this that changed Nicholson. Major Lewis Burwell who lived near Williamsburg had nine daughters, with one of whom the Governor had the misfortune to fall passionately in love. The love was not reciprocated. This "completely upset what little reason¹ there was in Governor Nicholson." He demanded the lady in royal fashion from her parents, but neither she nor her parents nor members of the family were willing to comply. The Governor became angry and persisted in his design and claim. He threatened the father and brother and swore to Dr. Blair that if the girl married some other man, he would cut the throats of three men - the bridegroom, the minister² and the justice who issued the license. The frenzied action of the Governor was talked of not only in Virginia but even in London. One of Nicholson's London friends wrote him a letter of advice in which he asked him not to give the lady or her relations any further molestation, and said, "It is not here as in some barbarous countries where the tender lady is dragged into the Sultan's arms just reeking in the blood of her nearest relatives." The Governor raged and abused

1. Meade, 159.
2. Perry, p.102.
3. Perry, pp. 66-75.

everyone who he thought opposed him directly or indirectly in the love affair. He imagined that Archibald Blair, brother of the Commissary, was his rival - but he was not - and hence "conceived the strongest objections to him and all his relatives." Whereupon he sent for Dr. Blair and said to him, "Sir, your brother is a villain and you have betrayed me." Then he lifted up his hands and loudly said, "Mr. Blair take notice; I vow to the eternal G -- that I will be revenged on you and all your family." Blair did all he could to undeceive and "pacify him" and to let him know that he was not opposing him in any way in his love affair. But it did no good. He pursued the Commissary with malice and tried to ruin him in both England and Virginia. It was believed by President Blair and others that Nicholson even entertained designs on his life. Nicholson gave the College boys pistols, powder and shot with which to keep the President out of the College. It cannot be said for certain that the Governor intended the boys to kill the President.

But the highminded Governor made a mistake, that cost him his office, in antagonizing the soberminded and influential Commissary. Before this love trouble the Governor no¹ did the councilmen did not ~~like~~ for the Council to oppose him in any way, espe-

1. William and Mary Historical Papers, Vol. I. p. 67.

2. Perry, p. 137, 138. William and Mary Historical Papers Vol. I. p. 68. College papers.

cially Dr. Blair, like the Governor's arbitrary and insulting actions. Now Nicholson's actions were a great deal worse. Blair and five other members of the Council - Robert Carter, Philip Jewell, J. Linntfoot, Matthew Page, and Benjamin Harrison- drew up a memorial against Governor Nicholson and sent it to the Queen.¹ Soon after this Dr. Blair and the Rev. James Fortescue were requested to make affidavits relating to the maladministration of Governor Nicholson. They did so. The charges brought in Blair's first affidavit pertained to the arbitrariness and partiality of the Governor in his administration.² They charged Nicholson with appointing justices of the peace, sheriffs, militia and naval officers and other officers without consulting the Council; with removing clerks and judges from office without any complaints being brought against them; with acting directly contrary to the advice of the Council, and hectoring its members and calling "them the opprobrious names of rogue, rascal, cheat, dog, villain, and coward;" with using partiality in the general court; and with uncalled-for action in strengthening the militia, and strong and suspicious expression about how he could govern if he had "soldiers well fleshed in blood and accustomed to booty".

1. Perry, pp 75-81.

2. Ibid. pp 87-112.

The second and further affidavit of Blair against the Governor pertained to the clergy, the College and himself.¹ The substance of the affidavit was that the Governor invaded the Commissary's jurisdiction by calling meetings of the clergy without taking notice of the Commissary; acted disrespectfully toward, and spoke contemptibly of the clergy, saying "they were all a pack of scoundrels" and he wished they were dead; threw abuses on the College and acted without the direction of the trustees and hindered the revenues; and interfered with the private affairs of Blair and tried to ruin his reputation. The conduct of the Governor which touched Dr. Blair the most was ^{Nicholson's} ~~his~~ tyranny in the Council, profane language and disrespectful talk about the clergy. The one aim of Blair's life was to raise the standard of the clergy in the estimation of the people, in order that they might do more religious good. Anything that hindered this aim touched the very soul of the Commissary. Mr. Thrale, the agent of Nicholson, attempted to draw up an answer to the charges brought against the Governor. If they could have been refuted, Mr. Thrale failed to refute them. He begins by telling his Lordship that if his answers appear defective,

1. Perry pp. 131-138.

that is leave the Governor unjustified, he hopes the defect will be attributed to his ignorance in drawing them up and in nowise reflect upon the Governor's cause. He attempts to answer but few of the accusations with plain facts. His answers, in general, are, that the Governor had a right to do so and so, and that he believed he was doing right in acting this way and that. No doubt the Council did object to the Governor's acts sometimes when it had no strictly legal right. Mr. Thrall makes no attempt to answer many of the charges and even acknowledges of several that it is impossible to refute them. All of this dispute led to a general uproar in Church and State. Preachers and politicians took a part. The House of Burgesses passed a resolution in favor of the Governor, saying they were of the opinion that he had great respect for the welfare and prosperity of the country.¹ A great reception was given at the hotel in Williamsburg to which clergymen were invited in order that they might be soothed into the Governor's cause.² Someone, of the time, wrote a long poem "addressed to the Revd. Members of the Convocation Held at Man's Ordinary at Williamsburg" in which the ministers of the festival are satirized and

1. New York Archives, Vol. II.

2. Campbell's Virginia, p 358. Meade Vol. I. p 159.

depicted in unclerical hilarity. The first of the poem is¹

"Pless us, what dismal times we these,
That stars are in conjunction,
That Priests turn Sycophants to please,
And Hain' brain Passion to appease,
Dare Prostitute their Function." 2

A large number of the clergy were on the side of Governor Nicholson. Some of them were preachers with whom the Commissary was unpopular and whom the Governor had won by taking their side against the vestries. Many of them were, as it were unconscious to themselves, won to the Governor by his receptions, favors and flattering speeches. Civility, politeness, is one of the greatest tools of policy workers. The large number of ministers on Nicholson's side signed a paper² in his favor. But their influence could not save him. The high minded Governor was completely defeated by the sober-minded Commissary. When the charges and answers were examined in England Governor Nicholson was removed and Edward Mott was made Lieutenant Governor. The upright and philanthropic life of Blair in Virginia had won great respect for him in England and when he said anything it carried weight with it. Of course no attempt is made here to write Governor Nicholson's life, yet on passing I wish to say,

1. Perry, 179

2. New York Archives Vol.II.

in spite of his ^{bad} ~~late~~ trait, ⁱⁿ ~~his~~ last hours, there was a warm-heartedness and politeness about him that wins for him our good feelings. ^{[1] In 1710 Alexander Spotswood became}
 Governor of Virginia. ¹ He was a nobler spirit than either of the two mentioned. He was an old soldier. From his boyhood he was brought up in the army and served under the Duke of Marlborough. He was in the battle of Blenheim and was badly wounded by the first fire of the French. ² He rose to the order of colonel and hence had learned to command and expect obedience without gainsaying. This spirit he, of course, brought with him when he came to Virginia as Governor. While liberal in some of his views, he was ardent for the royal power and for its transfer to the Governor of Virginia. He made one of the best governors the colony ever had. For many years there was "perfect friendship" between him and Dr. Blair. He gave the College his support and at his instance the Assembly, in 1718, voted the College one thousand pounds. ³ He especially encouraged Indian education. While, on the other hand, President Blair supported Spotswood's favorite enterprise- the crossing of the Blue Ridge and discovering the valley beyond. ⁴ But after about seven or eight years

1. Lord Okeley was still figure-head Governor.

2. Spotswood's Letters, VOL I. p. 9 (preface). Campbell's Virginia, pp 378, 379.

3. Spotswood's Letters, Vols. I. and II., p. 12 (preface).

4. Meade, Vol. I p. 130.

disagreement began to arise between the two. This discord was due to two things - the rather extreme dominion exercised by the Governor, and the confused connection of Church and State. The spirit of freedom that always existed in a Virginia House of Burgesses was not exactly suited to the prerogative of a soldier Governor.¹ A quarrel arose between Spotswood and the Burgesses. Colonel Byrd, with others, was sent over to England to prefer charges against him. And because Dr. Blair would not take sides with him ^{the Governor} ~~he~~ tried to injure the Commissary. Again the Governor appointed men, besides members of the Council, judges in the high court of Oyer and Terminer.² The Council opposed this, together with other high-handed action, and led by Blair, drew up a remonstrance against the Governor, to the Lord Commissioner of Trade and Plantations, whereupon the Governor besought the Commissioner to petition the Queen to dismiss the whole Council and appoint another.

The other cause of Dr. Blair opposing Spotswood is found in the matter of inducting ministers. To the Governor, as ordinary, belonged ~~the~~ in-ecclesiastical affairs, induction of ministers, probating of wills and granting of licenses. To

1. Spotswood's Letters, Vol. I., pp 132, 139; Vol. II., pp. 219, 220.
 2. " " " " II., pp. 221, 223, 259, 260.

man was more anxious for preachers to be inducted than was the Commissary. The point in dispute was this: Spotswood claimed the right of inducting a minister into a parish as soon as the parish might become vacant, that is, as soon as it needed a preacher.¹ The Commissary claimed that it was the function of the vestrymen, in the name of the parishoners, to present a minister to the Governor for induction. And in case the vestrymen should not present a minister for induction, in six months from the time the parish became vacant, then the Governor could induct a preacher without presentation.²

According to the practice of former governors, the opinion of Attorney-General Wortley and the act of the General Assembly,³ the Commissary was right.

To the convention of the clergy at Williamsburg in 1719 Governor Spotswood addressed a letter accusing the Commissary of not wanting ministers inducted, of deserting the cause of the Church, and⁴ allowing laymen to conduct services in church and at burials. Dr. Blair readily answered these, for the first two were absolutely untrue. As to the third, a few

1. Perry, pp. 97, 98, 203, - 204.

2. Ibid. pp. 226 - 242.

3. Ibid, pp 127, 128, 243, 244.

4. Ibid. 201 - 203.

times, when unwell, Blair had allowed a layman to read for him and then he preached and conducted the rest of the services. In distant parts of the colony he had, a time or two, ridden by a graveyard when some grave layman was conducting the burial service.¹ These charges seem to us at the present time petty and trivial, but at this time when everything was done according to stern and rigid custom, they were regarded as of no little importance.

During the disagreement many letters were written by both parties to the Bishop of London. In 1721 Dr. Blair made a trip to England. The triumph of the old parson over the old soldier was complete. Spotswood was recalled in 1722 and Drysdale was made Governor. The opposition between the Commissary and Spotswood had much to do with the Governor's being removed.² In all of these troubles between the Governors and the Commissary one thing is most apparent, namely, the friction between the connected Church and State. We are not to think these disturbances arose altogether from the fault of these individual men, for they arose partly from a state of things that had inevitablyrenched many a European battle field with blood. America has made one of the greatest of contributions to civilization in solving the

1. Perry, 226-235. Pease, Vol. I., pp 160, 161.

2. William and Mary Historical Papers, Vol. I., pp 68, 69.

problem of Church and State. With Spotswood Dr. Blair's troubles with governors passed away. Hardly if ever are the manly struggles of life suffered to be in vain. The old parson president saw the storm and clouds, which darkened the morning of his life, pass away and ^{the} rainbow of heavenly peace arched over the calmness of his later years. For twenty years yet, ~~as~~ has been partly described in former chapters, the venerable Commissary toiled on for the religious, educational and political good of the colony. Considering the many offices Dr. Blair held and his relations to others, very likely he sometimes concerned himself a little too much with others' business, but there is no evidence of this in the records. Earnestness, sincerity and labor, are the most noticeable things in his life from the time he landed in Virginia to the end of his career. His life was one of ~~philosophic~~ ^{anthropic} service and above reproach. After having been a preacher for more than sixty five years, Commissary fifty four years, a member of the Council fifty years, and president of the College half a century, Dr. Blair died on April 18, 1743, in his eighty ninth year, leaving his library and five hundred pounds to the College. He had no children, so he left

the rest of his estate, excepting some small legacies, to his nephew John Blair and his children. He was buried at Jamestown. The following is the inscription on Dr. Blair's tomb, as copied by Hugh Blair Grigsby in the middle of this century.¹

" H. S. E. (Hic sepultus est)
 Vir Reverendus et Honorabilis
 Jacobus Blair, A.M.
 In Scotia natus,
 In Academia Fainburgensi nutritus,
 Primo Angliam deinde Virginiam
 venit:
 In qua parte tenarum
 Annos LVIII. Evangelii, Preconis
 LIV. Commissarii
 Gulielmi et Mariae Praesidis,
 Britanniae Principium
 Consiliarii
 Concilii Praesidis
 Coloniae Prefecti
 munera sustinuit
 oravit
 um oris venusti Decus,
 ate hilari sine (?) hospitali
 muncipient
 issimodegenis largo
 omnibus comi
 superavit.
 Collegio bene diversam
 fundaverat
 eus Bibliothecam suam
 ia alenda Theologiae studiorum
 Juventutem pauperiorem instituendam
 Testamento legavit
 Cal. mai in die
 MDCCXIII
 aetat: LXXXVIII
 am desideratissimi

1. Meade, Vol. II, Appendix.

Lenis laudem
is nepotibus commendabunt
pene mamore perenniora." 1

The following is a translation made by Mr. Grigsby with "the blanks and chasms" filled with his "own knowledge of the events of the Commissary's life";

Here lies buried
The Reverend and Honourable
James Blair, A.M.,
who was born in Scotland, was educated in the College of
Edinburgh, and emigrated to England, and thence to Virginia,
in which colony he spent fifty eight years as an Evangelist,
Deacon, and Priest of the Church of England, and fifty four
years as Commissary of the Bishop of London. He was the
founder and first President of William and Mary College, a
member of the Council, and subsequently its President; and
as such in the absence of the representative of the King, the
Governor of the Colony.
He had a handsome person, and in the family circle blended
cheerfulness with piety.
He was a generous friend to the poor, and was prompt in lend-
ing assistance to all who needed it.
He was a liberal benefactor of the College during his life;
and at his death bequeathed to it his library, with the hope
that his books - which were mostly religious - might lead
the student to those things which lead to salvation.
He died on the ___ day of the Calends of May in the
year 1743, aged eighty eight years exhibiting to the last
those graces which make old age lovely, and lamented by all,
especially by his nephews, who have reared this stone to com-
memorate those virtues which will long survive the marble
that records them."

1. Mr. Grigsby said some words in this copy may not be correct
The inscriptions were much effaced.

*He sustained his various offices with the approbation
of his fellowmen, while he illustrated in his life
those virtues which adorn the Christian character.*

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LIFE.

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September, 1890, he entered Milligan College, Tennessee, from which he was graduated with the degree of A.B. in 1894.

In the same year of his graduation he went to Christiansburg, Virginia, and became pastor of Edgemont Church, which pastorate he held till September, 1896. In October 1896 he entered upon a three years' course of graduate study in the Johns Hopkins University, taking History as the principal subject, Economics and Philosophy as first and second subordinates respectively.

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